

CLAIMS

1. System for billing communication costs referred to a corporate telecommunications network located in a plurality of sites (S1, S2, S3, S4), said corporate network comprising:

- an interface function (A) with at least one external telecommunications network (PSTN),

- a data communication network (WAN) capable of supporting voice calls in IP-based mode, and

- a database (B) for collecting data (C, D, E) referred to calls via said interface function (A) and calls on said data communication network (WAN),

the system being characterised by the fact that it comprises:

- at least one user interface (GUI) for selectively producing first configuration data (J) pertaining to said sites (S1, S2, S3, S4), second configuration data (K) pertaining to numbering plans for placing said calls, and third configuration data (L) pertaining to billing plans for said calls; said first, second and third configuration data pertaining both to voice calls and to data calls,

- a classification module (M) for dividing the calls according to numbering plans corresponding to said second configuration data (K) according to said first configuration data (J) pertaining to said sites (S1, S2, S3, S4),

- a value module (N) for calculating the costs of said calls with reference to the billing plans corresponding to said third configuration data (L), (J) pertaining to said sites (S1, S2, S3, S4) and to said second configuration data pertaining to said numbering plans, and

- a report generating module (O) for generating reports pertaining to costs of communications placed over said corporate communications network determined by said value module (N), said reports transparently referring both to voice calls and to data calls.

2. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that it comprises a respective database (H) for storing said first (J), second (K) and third (L) configuration data.

3. System according to claim 1 or 2, characterised by the fact that said classification module (M) classifies said calls according to at least one parameter chosen in the group comprising: source site (S1, S2, S3, S4) of the call, called number, internal or external number of the call respect to said corporate telecommunications network.

4. System according to claim 3, characterised by the fact that said call classifying module (M) classifies the internal calls over said corporate communications network according to in-site calls and between-site calls.

5. System according to claim 3, characterised by the fact that said classifying module (M) classifies external calls over said corporate communications network according

to district calls, inter-district calls, international calls or mobile terminal calls.

6. System according to claim 2, for the combined use of a corporate telecommunications network in which said database collects the amount of exchanged bytes in relation to said data communication network (WAN) calls, characterised by the fact that said call value module (N) calculates the cost of calls placed on said data communications network (WAN) according to the amount of exchanged bytes.

7. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said at least one user interface (GUI) is configured so that said third configuration data (K) pertaining to billing plans includes at least one configurable parameter for voice calls chosen the in group comprising: day, billing start time, billing end time, rate per unit of time, units.

8. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said at least one user interface (GUI) is configured so that said third configuration data (K) pertaining to billing plans includes at least one configurable parameter for data calls chosen in the group comprising: list of corporate sites served by said data connection network (WAN), rates for transmitting a certain amount of data from one of said sites to all the others, annual and/or monthly fixed subscriber fee.

9. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said user interface (GUI) comprises a controlling function for verifying the occurrence of the one of the following events in said third configuration data: no rate value for a specific time window, double rate value definition for a certain time window, presence of a rate value for a certain time window.

10. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said user interface (GUI) is configured to bill inbound calls over said at least one external telephone telecommunications network (PSTN) at zero cost.

11. System according to claim 2, characterised by the fact that said value module (N) bills calls over said interface function (A) according to the rate identified by means of said third configuration data (L) and according to the duration of the conversation collected in said database (B).

12. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said value module (N) bills calls on said data communications network (WAN) according to the number of bytes exchanged during the call and according to the corresponding third configuration data generated by said user interface (GUI) and pertaining to the source site and to the destination site of said data call.

13. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said value module (N) firstly bills said calls by

means of said interface function (A) and then bills calls over said data connection network (WAN).

14. System according to claim 1 or 13, characterised by the fact that said value module (N) with respect to calls placed over said data communications network (WAN), first bills between-site calls and then bills in-site calls.

15. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said report generating module (O) is configured to generate reports which indicate for each calls at least one parameters chosen in the groups comprising: caller's number, called number, starting time of connection, source IP address, destination IP address, duration, source site, destination site, name of user placing the call, type of call and cost.

16. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said report generating module (O) is configured to generate aggregated reports on the basis of at least one typology chosen from the group comprising:

- cost, wherein calls are sorted according to cost providing at least one of the following: caller's name, type of call, duration, cost, caller's name, called number and number of exchanged bytes (the latter for between-site calls);

- duration, wherein calls are sorted according to duration providing at least one of the following: caller's name, type of call, duration, cost, caller's number, called

number and number of exchanged bytes (the latter for between-site calls);

- typology, wherein calls are sorted according to typology providing at least one of the following: caller's name, type of call, duration, cost, caller's number, called number and, for between-site calls, number of exchanged bytes;

- traffic, for between-site calls, wherein calls are sorted according to amount of exchanged data providing at least one of the following: caller's name, type of call, duration, cost, caller's number, called number, and number of exchanged bytes; and

- user, wherein calls are sorted according to user providing at least one of the following: caller's name, type of call, duration, cost, caller's number, called number and, for between-site calls, number of exchanged bytes.

17. System according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said report generating module (O) is configured for generating desegregated corporate site specific reports (S1, S2, S3, S4).

18. A corporate telecommunications network located in several sites (S1, S2, S3, S4), characterised by the fact that it comprises a system for billing communication costs as claimed in any of the preceding claims.